



Climate change and children's health

Author(s): Bernstein AS, Myers SS
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Abstract:

PURPOSE OF REVIEW: To present the latest data that demonstrate how climate change affects children's health and to identify the principal ways in which climate change puts children's health at risk. **RECENT FINDINGS:** Data continue to emerge that further implicate climate change as contributing to health burdens in children. Climate models have become even more sophisticated and consistently forecast that greenhouse gas emissions will lead to higher mean temperatures that promote more intense storms and droughts, both of which have profound implications for child health. Recent climate models shed light upon the spread of vector-borne disease, including Lyme disease in North America and malaria in Africa. Modeling studies have found that conditions conducive to forest fires, which generate harmful air pollutants and damage agriculture, are likely to become more prevalent in this century due to the effects of greenhouse gases added to earth's atmosphere. **SUMMARY:** Through many pathways, and in particular via placing additional stress upon the availability of food, clean air, and clean water and by potentially expanding the burden of disease from certain vector-borne diseases, climate change represents a major threat to child health. Pediatricians have already seen and will increasingly see the adverse health effects of climate change in their practices. Because of this, and many other reasons, pediatricians have a unique capacity to help resolve the climate change problem.

Source: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1097/MOP.0b013e3283444c89>

Resource Description

Exposure : ☒

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Security, Food/Water Security, Human Conflict/Displacement, Temperature, Unspecified Exposure

Extreme Weather Event: Drought, Flooding, Hurricanes/Cyclones

Food/Water Security: Food Access/Distribution, Nutritional Quality

Temperature: Fluctuations

Geographic Feature: ☒

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Infectious Disease, Respiratory Effect

Infectious Disease: Vectorborne Disease

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease: Other Diarrheal Disease

Vectorborne Disease: Mosquito-borne Disease, Tick-borne Disease

Mosquito-borne Disease: Malaria

Tick-borne Disease: Lyme Disease

Respiratory Effect: Asthma

Medical Community Engagement:

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern:

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Children

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified